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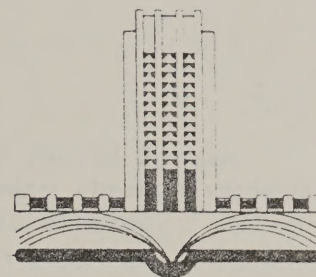
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
TECHNICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY BUILDING
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND 20705

No. 2, July 10, 1980



TIS NEWS NOTES

AIDING THE ARBORETUM

The Director of the National Arboretum recently sent Dr. Farley a memo expressing his appreciation for fine cooperation from Hazel Pollard in connection with the computerization of data on herbs. Hazel's patience and willingness to work with the project were highly praised.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Joe Garbarino (Budget Division, SEA) and Dale Kane (Financial Management Division, SEA) spent an hour recently with Ruben Aragon, seeing how TIS is developing administrative information systems on the Lanier word processor. With Jo Andy's help, transmission of data between two Laniers was also demonstrated. The Budget Division has just added the communications feature to its Laniers, and we plan to start using this capability immediately.

FY 82 BUDGET

Dr. Bertrand and the SEA Management Team will be presenting the proposed SEA Budget for FY 82 to the Secretary's Program and Budget Review Board (PBRB) at the end of the month. He will give PBRB an overview of the USDA science and education budget, including programs from the Forest Service, ESCS, etc., on July 25. On July 29, he will present the SEA budget in depth.

Meanwhile John Victor, Chief of the Budget Division, has been designated as the SEA focal point for contacts with our OMB Budget Examiner and with the USDA Office of Budget, Program, and Evaluation.

FY 83 BUDGET

SEA has been obtaining early budget advice from a number of professional societies and organizations in the field of agriculture. We have now had the chance to recommend that several library/information science societies should be added to the list for the FY 83 budget process. Meanwhile, the American Library Association took the opportunity several months ago to present a statement to Congress in support of our FY 81 budget request.

JOINT COUNCIL AND USERS ADVISORY BOARD

The 1977 Farm Bill established two major groups to advise SEA on its programs. They are meeting July 15-17, in joint session part of the time.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION WORK/STUDY PROGRAM AT TECHNICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

There are four cooperative education students from Highland University of New Mexico at the TIS at present: Carmella Aragon, Ernestine Gurule, Germaine Lopez, and Gloria Regensberg. Four others have been here since this

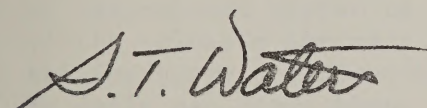
Program originated here five years ago at the initiative of Gerald Sophar. During their two 6-months duty assignments the students rotate through various TIS units. This gives them a broad understanding of the TIS mission, organization, and operation. Field trips to the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution, and other government libraries and information centers in Washington area conclude their work/study tour. The students and Mr. Yagodich recently also visited Mr. Alexander P. Mercure, USDA Assistant Secretary for Rural Development, himself a graduate of Highlands University.

Ms. Consuelo Juarros, Director of the Cooperative Education Program at Highlands University, and Dr. Raul Herrera, Director of the University Library, visited Technical Information Systems July 2-3. Both met with Sam Waters and Bill Yagodich, Coop. Ed. Program Coordinator at TIS. Mr. Waters noted how much help the students have been to TIS, and how quick they have been to learn. All agreed that this work/study arrangement is beneficial to all concerned and that TIS should continue to participate in and to support this worthy program.

SECRETARY'S MEETING FOR AGENCY HEADS

Mr Bergland met with Agency Heads (including officials from major SEA components) on July 8. Among topics covered were the Mt. St. Helens disaster; the need for more minority contracting; and the passage of the Energy Security Act, which authorized (but does not appropriate) extensive funding for research on biomass. It also stresses agricultural interest in acid rain.

Also noted was Congressional concern over in the housekeeping aspects of government, from consulting and contracting to furniture and space utilization. Agency heads were urged to pay close attention to these areas, and to keep close control over the paperwork burden placed on citizens required to answer government questionnaires and forms.



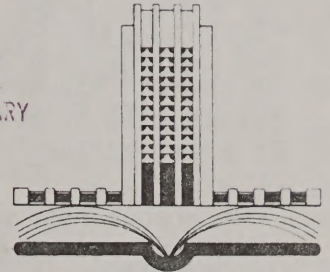
SAMUEL T. WATERS
Associate Administrator

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June 30, 1980

JUL 2 1980

PROCUREMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

TIS NEWS NOTES

COMMUNICATIONS TO TIS STAFF

News of wide interest to TIS staff should be brought to the attention of all by means of these News Notes, which are being sent to all members of COSTIS, the Council of Supervisors of TIS, and to staff members with special assignments.

Trip and meeting reports, progress reports extracted from Division monthly reports, and other items of broad interest should be forwarded to Gene Farkas. Gene welcomes potential contributions from all staff members.

Monthly reports from Divisions are due on the seventh working day of each month. Files are maintained in Sam Waters' office. Let Jo Andy know if you want to borrow them briefly for your perusal.

AGNET

A few days after Mt. St. Helens exploded, we received a rush call from SEA headquarters asking us what we knew about "AGNET." Dr. Farley knew it was an Extension information network, so we got in touch with Jerry Paulsen, who had all the answers. When he called back to SEA, it turned out that the Secretary of Agriculture wanted to use the system to obtain information about the impact of the volcanic activity on agriculture. A computer terminal was placed in the Secretary's office, assigned the ID of AGNET 1, and the network has been in daily use since then. We're happy to have helped steer the Secretary to the right place.

FY 82 BUDGET

Preliminary work on the Fiscal 82 budget is approaching the early moments of decision. Requests for increases are being prepared in terms of matters of special concern of SEA, for which Special Analyses are being done by teams from the different organizational components of SEA. Some of our staff members have been assigned to work on certain of those teams to prepare special analyses in areas with which TIS seem to have a clear interest. As a result of the work of these team members and the interest of SEA Administration at the highest level, TIS increases are now being requested in connection with the following areas: Aquaculture, IPM, Tropical Agricultural Research, Human Nutrition, Animal Health, Energy, Organic Farming, Consumer Education Centers, Higher Education, and Increased Operating Costs. Our thanks go to all those in TIS who have served on the teams and who have helped prepare proposals in connection with these areas. Phil Dopkowski has worked (and is still working) long and hard at the thankless task of pulling these materials together in the form required by the Program Planning Staff of JP & E. Jo Andy has had the pleasure(?) of typing and/or retyping much of it. Special thanks to them.

Of course this work is only the first step in a long budget pathway. Proposals will be reviewed by the SEA Management Team and later by the USDA Program and Budget Review Board, after which they will be analyzed by an examiner from OMB. If they clear the Executive Branch they remain subject to review and approval by both Houses of Congress. Sometimes it seems a miracle that any request could survive so many critical scrutinies. It is also the case that broad problems of government, such as the state of the economy, often affect final determinations more than the quality of the proposal. It is clear that we can't bank on any request for increase being approved. Nevertheless, I have never before seen so much support for TIS activities from our research, extension and education colleagues, both in the special analysis teams and at higher headquarters. We are evidently meeting important information needs and convincing others that we can do more if given a chance. Keep up the good work.

INNOVATIVE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COORDINATING GROUP

Late in April Sam Waters sent a note to Senior Staff pointing out that "A number of people (Tate, Paulsen, Hoyt et al.) are currently engaged in a variety of developmental activities for library and information systems. I believe a coordinating group should be established to enhance communication about these innovative activities. I would appreciate receiving your nominations to such a group." Since then the group comprised of Jerry Paulsen, Tom Tate, Chet Swank, David Hoyt, and Sam Waters has met twice. A draft statement of its objectives follows: "to encourage the development of expertise and information technologies among TIS personnel; to exchange information among TIS staff and all potential users, data producers and systems designers about the new technologies; to educate and inform TIS staff and others about systems capabilities, to advocate changes and improvements in information technology applications; and to promote the use of new technologies throughout SEA and USDA."

The group hopes to develop an organization with broader representation from within TIS, and to establish a communications network with other USDA information professionals, including those in current information and ADP work. It hopes to engage in development of seminars for USDA information professionals and management, with demonstrations, state-of-the-art reports, and perhaps panels on possible SEA and USDA applications of the new technology. This would cover such areas as direct delivery of computerized information to the farm and home, video disk, electronic mail, teleconferencing, paperless office, full text data bases etc. In addition to presenting seminars, the group hopes to develop proposals requesting funding to acquire, demonstrate, and create pilot projects using advanced information technology. They also hope to develop small-scale pilot projects without formal funding.

UNION AT TIS DECERTIFIED

The Federal Labor Relations Authority has officially certified the results of the election held June 5 at the NAL Building and at DC Branch. Local 3147 of